

**LifeGroup Study**  
**THERE WILL BE TESTS**  
**The Desert**  
**2022-03-27**  
**Participant Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, There Will Be Tests. In Matthew 4:1-11 we read of Jesus' temptation in the desert. These tests are given so He will trust his identity, given at his baptism in Matthew 3. In the desert test, Jesus trusted that God is faithful to His word. His way and timing are the best. Here is a key lesson we can learn from Jesus – Trust God in the test. Jesus passed a test we never could. Jesus stands strong and ready to fill us with His power so we can pass the tests we face today.

**ICEBREAKER:** Now That's Tempting!

You know what it's like to catch the scent of your favourite food? Your senses awaken and your focus becomes honed in. When you catch that scent you might say – "now that's tempting!" So, what does it for you? Is it the smell of fresh bread, or the scent of coffee brewing? Is it the scent of dinner cooking that reminds you of home? Do you have a particular memory of a time the scent of food really drew you in? **Share your food temptation story with your group!**

**STUDY:**

1. On Sunday, Pete taught about the temptations Jesus faced in the desert. In those tests, Jesus demonstrated the importance of trusting God. **What was a highlight for you from what Pete taught on Sunday?**
2. READ: Matthew 3:16-17

In today's study we're going to focus in on the fact that Jesus' understanding of His identity (who the Father says He is) was key to staying strong in His testing in the wilderness. **What did the Father say in these verses to confirm Jesus' identity? How do these words speak to our identity in Christ?**

READ: Matthew 4:1-11

3. In Matthew 4:1 we read how Jesus was led into the wilderness. It was in this environment that Jesus was tested. Think about the question - **What is my "wilderness" these days? Share your thoughts with the group.**
  
4. Jesus was tested in the wilderness. We can be tested in similar ways. One of the tests we can face is self-sufficiency. With this test we are tempted to say – "I don't need God." "I can do this on my own." Jesus faced this test in Matthews 4:2-4. **How does Jesus respond to this test?**
  
5. In what way have you experienced the test of self-sufficiency? **What did you learn?**
  
6. A second test we face is in the area of choices. In Matthew 4:5-7, Satan tempts Jesus to make an unwise choice by putting God to the test. **How does Satan test Jesus in this instance?**
  
7. As a group, see if you can brainstorm some examples of how Satan might test us by tempting us to make poor choices. **How might you use Scripture to stand firm in this test?**
  
8. A third test we face is the test of power. Satan tempted Jesus to take power over all the kingdoms of the world. He said, "I will give it to you, if you will kneel down and worship me." **How did Jesus respond to this test?**
  
9. Our world is filled with temptations to find our identity in power over other people. The temptation to control other people and our circumstances can easily pull us away from giving ultimate control to God. **How have you experienced the power test? What have you learned about how to respond?**
  
10. Think about the tests you are facing these days. **How might you lean into God's power for strength to endure the test?**

## **PRAYER**

This week let's pray for Celebrate Recovery and Celebration Place

Prayer for more volunteer in the following:

-Transportation Team/or Free Bus

-Cafe Teams in late spring

-Worship Volunteers

-Celebration Place - Nursery & School age - variety of roles.

- Prayer for participants who have stopped engaging in recovery over the past couple years, for various reasons, that God would prompt them to continue their recovery journey and join us on Friday Nights
- Continued prayer for Step Study participants to continue through their study and finish strong.